

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the non-final action of May 29, 2008, in which claims 1-10 and 13-36 are pending. All claims stand rejected. Claims 1, 3-6, 14, 18-19, 21-22, 27, 31 and 33-34 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Krasner (6,107,960).

All of the present claim amendments are fully supported by the specification, and introduce no new matter. Presently amended claim 1 requires at least one processor that is configured to set an attenuation which is applied by an attenuator to received signals to a non-blocking higher value in case a communication system transmitter is transmitting signals with a power level exceeding a certain value. The higher value is sufficiently high to prevent an evaluation of the attenuated received signals, when the attention is set to the higher value.

The Office Action appears to consider the GaAs switch of Krasner to correspond to the attenuator of claim 1. However, Krasner proposes in the cited passage that “*when the power lever control 105 signal maintains high power to the power amplifier 108, switch 112 is turned to off so that no data is passed through to the GPS receiver. Thus, GPS signals are gated out (or blocked) during cellular telephone transmissions at high power, while they may be received at all other times*”. (col. 7, lines 19-28).

Already previously-pending claim 1 made clear that the attenuator cannot be a switch, as it required that “*an evaluation of said attenuated received signals*” is prevented. This clearly requires that the attenuator allows signals to pass even if set to the higher attenuation value. To make this even clearer, it has been specified in claim 1 that the higher value of the attenuation is a non-blocking higher value.

Attenuating a received signal instead of blocking a received signal may be of advantage in some implementations, which are better able to cope with very low power signals that cannot be evaluated than with a complete interruption of received signals.

Such attenuation is neither disclosed nor suggested in Krasner.

The Examiner considers the feature of claim 2 (using an increasing attenuation with an increasing amplification of transmitted signals) to be inherently disclosed by col. 7, lines 19-28 and 36-54, referring specifically to the use of a limiting circuitry, which is

supposed to be used in controlling a received GPS with a variable attenuation. The Examiner thus seems to consider also a non-blocking attenuation to be rendered obvious.

However, in col. 7, lines 19-28, Krasner described only an embodiment using a gating of a received signal by a switch 112, as mentioned above.

In col. 7, lines 36-41, Krasner describes an alternative embodiment, in which a gating signal may be used to ensure that a received signal is gated at processing circuit 114. This gating signal corresponds again to an interruption of the received signal, which is prevented in the approach of claim 1.

In col. 7, lines 42-54, Krasner describes a further alternative embodiment, in which a gating signal is used for causing a processing circuitry to discard a received signal during periods in which a cellular telephone is transmitting (col. 7, lines 47-54). Discarding signals before or after processing is obviously different from attenuating a signal before it is processed, as required by claim 1.

Krasner only suggests in addition for this latter embodiment that some type of limiting circuitry may be used to ensure that the RF front end circuitry of the GPS receiver 113 can withstand the high power exclusively for the purpose of protecting the RF front end circuitry from damage. There is no indication that the limiting circuitry comes only to action when the cellular phone is transmitting. A skilled person will rather assume that the limiting circuitry is always action but only has an effect when high power signals are received. There is also no hint that the limiting circuitry applies a variable attenuation. A limiting circuitry generally only prevents a signal from exceeding a predetermined power value. This does not correspond to applying an attenuation that is high enough for preventing the received signal from being evaluated while not blocking the received signal completely. Otherwise, the additional step of discarding used in this embodiment of Krasner would also be superfluous.

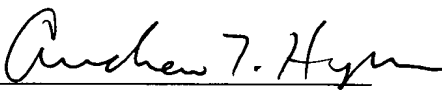
On the whole, it thus becomes apparent that the subject matter of claim 1 cannot be considered to have been rendered obvious by the teachings of Krasner. The same comments apply to the other independent claims, which comprise corresponding features.

CONCLUSION

The objections and rejections of the Office Action, having been obviated by amendment or shown to be inapplicable, withdrawal thereof is requested and passage of the claims to issue is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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